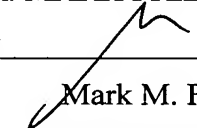


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has required restriction of the instant application to one invention under 35 U.S.C. 121. The Examiner has identified the following inventions claimed in the instant invention:

- I. Claims 1-14, drawn to a lid assembly for creating a partial vacuum.
- II. Claims 15-17, drawn to a lid assembly for removing contents.
- III. Claim 18, drawn to a lid assembly for a container.

The Examiner's assertion is traversed, however, in order to expedite the prosecution of the instant application, the Applicant hereby restricts the examination to Claims 1-14 and invention I as identified by the Examiner. Claims 15-18 are withdrawn from consideration at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
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